

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven laminate comprising at least one layer of tufted material located between at least two outer layers of ~~non-woven~~ nonwoven material, wherein the nonwoven laminate does not contain elastic materials or fibers between the at least two outer layers and wherein the at least one layer of tufted material is one layer of a bi-layer structure, the bi-layer structure also comprising one of the at least two outer layers of ~~non-woven~~ nonwoven material.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The nonwoven laminate of claim 1 wherein the tufted material is comprised of polymer and the ~~non-woven~~ nonwoven material is coform.
4. (Currently Amended) The nonwoven laminate of claim 1 wherein the ~~non-woven~~ nonwoven material is a ~~non-woven~~ nonwoven absorbent material.
5. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven laminate comprising at least two layers of tufted material, the at least two layers having opposing bondable projections oriented inwardly to produce an internally tufted laminate, wherein the nonwoven laminate does not contain elastic materials or fibers between the at least two layers.
6. (Original) The laminate of claim 5 wherein at least one of the at least two layers of tufted material has a bi-layer structure.
7. (Original) The laminate of claim 6 wherein each bi-layer structure comprises the tufted material and an outer layer of nonwoven composite material.

8. (Original) The laminate of claim 7 wherein the nonwoven composite material is coform.

9. (Original) The laminate of claim 8 wherein the tufted material is a wire-tufted material comprised primarily of meltblown polymer.

10. (Original) The laminate of claim 9 wherein the meltblown polymer is a polyolefin selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene polybutylene, copolymers, and mixtures and blends thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) The laminate of claim 5 wherein the ~~at least two layers opposing bondable projections~~ are thermally bondable.

12. (Currently Amended) The laminate of claim 5 wherein each ~~tuft is a projection measuring measures~~ between about three (3) mm and about five (5) mm in length.

13. (Currently Amended) The laminate of claim 5 wherein each ~~tuft is a projection measuring measures~~ at least about one (1) mm in length.

14. (Currently Amended) The laminate of claim 5 wherein each ~~tuft is a projection measuring measures~~ at least about two (2) mm in length.

15. (Currently Amended) The laminate of claim 5 wherein each ~~tuft is a projection measuring measures~~ at least about three (3) mm in length.

16. (Currently Amended) An internally tufted laminate comprising:
at least two coform outer layers surrounding an inner layer of tufted meltblown material,
the inner layer having a ~~plurality of inner tufts and valleys an identifiable pattern of bondable projections each having an interior, the bondable projections each surrounded by a valley, wherein each interior forms a depression and a plurality of outer depressions the outer~~

~~depressions visible from an exterior surface of the laminate, wherein the internally tufted laminate does not contain elastic materials or fibers between the at least two outer layers.~~

17-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The internally tufted laminate of claim [[19]] 16 wherein the identifiable pattern is substantially uniform.

21. (Previously Presented) The internally tufted laminate of claim 16 wherein the laminate is a disposable product selected from the group consisting of diaper, tissue, towel, wipe and any component or portion of a diaper, tissue, towel or wipe.

22. (Currently Amended) An absorbent sheet comprising:

an internally tufted laminate having at least two layers of tufted material, the at least two layers having opposing bondable individual tufts oriented inwardly and configured to form an identifiable pattern, the at least two layers of tufted material located between at least two outer layers, wherein the absorbent sheet does not contain elastic materials or fibers between the at least two outer layers; and

an added liquid.

23. (Original) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein the added liquid is selected from the group consisting of water, emollients, surfactants, fragrances, preservatives, chelating agents, pH buffers and combinations thereof.

24. (Original) The absorbent sheet of claim 23 further comprising additives selected from the group consisting of lotions, medicaments, and combinations thereof.

25. (Original) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein the absorbent sheet is a personal care wet wipe.

26. (Original) The absorbent sheet of claim 23 wherein the sheet is disposable.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The absorbent sheet of claim [[27]] 22 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring between about three (3) mm and about five (5) mm in length.

29. (Currently Amended) The absorbent sheet of claim [[27]] 22 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring at least about one (1) mm in length.

30. (Currently Amended) The absorbent sheet of claim [[27]] 22 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring at least about two (2) mm in length.

31. (Currently Amended) The absorbent sheet of claim [[27]] 22 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring at least about three (3) mm in length.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The absorbent sheet of claim [[32]] 22 wherein the identifiable pattern is substantially uniform.

34-49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven laminate comprising at least two layers of tufted material, the at least two layers having opposing tufts oriented inwardly to produce an internally tufted laminate, wherein each tuft is a projection measuring at least about one (1) mm in length.

51. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 50 wherein each tuft is a projection measuring at least about two (2) mm in length.

52. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 50 wherein each tuft is a projection measuring at least about three (3) mm in length.

53. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 50 wherein each tuft is a projection measuring between about three (3) mm and about five (5) mm in length.

54. (Currently Amended) An absorbent sheet comprising:

an internally tufted laminate comprised of a plurality of individual tufts located on at least two layers of material and configured to have an identifiable pattern, wherein each individual tuft is a bondable projection oriented inwardly towards an opposing projection and measuring ~~between~~ at least about one (1) mm in length and the ~~at least two layers of material are oriented inwardly~~; and

an added liquid.

55. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 54 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring at least about two (2) mm in length.

56. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 54 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring at least about three (3) mm in length.

57. (Currently Amended) The absorbent sheet of claim 54 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring between about three (3) mm and about five (5) mm in length.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Currently Amended) The absorbent sheet of claim [[58]] 54 wherein the identifiable pattern is substantially uniform.

60. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven laminate of claim 1 wherein an additional elastic or non-elastic layer is located adjacent to the at least two outer layers.

61. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven laminate of claim 5 wherein an additional elastic or non-elastic layer is located adjacent to the at least two outer layers.

62. (Previously Presented) The internally tufted laminate of claim 16 wherein an additional elastic or non-elastic layer is located adjacent to the at least two outer layers.

63. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein an additional elastic or non-elastic layer is located adjacent to the at least two outer layers.

64. (Canceled)

65. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven laminate comprising two layers of tufted material having a plurality of projections configured to form an identifiable pattern and oriented towards each other to produce an internally tufted laminate in which opposing projections are in contact and bondable to one another, wherein the nonwoven laminate does not contain elastic materials or fibers between the two layers.

66. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 65 wherein at least one of the two layers of tufted material has a bi-layer structure.

67. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 66 wherein each bi-layer structure comprises the tufted material and an outer layer of nonwoven composite material.

68. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 67 wherein the nonwoven composite material is coform.

69. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 68 wherein the tufted material is comprised primarily of meltblown polymer.

70. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 69 wherein the meltblown polymer is a polyolefin selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene polybutylene, copolymers, and mixtures and blends thereof.

71. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 65 wherein the two layers are thermally bondable.

72. (Currently Amended) The laminate of claim 65 wherein the two layers of tufted material are located between two outer layers of ~~non-woven~~ nonwoven material.

Please add the following new claims:

73. (New) The laminate of claim 5 further comprising at least two outer layers of nonwoven material surrounding the at least two layers of tufted material.

74. (New) The laminate of claim 73 wherein each of the at least two layers of tufted material is one layer of a bi-layer structure, the bi-layer structure also comprising one of the at least two outer layers of nonwoven material.

75. (New) The laminate of claim 72 wherein each of the two layers of tufted material is one layer of a bi-layer structure, the bi-layer structure also comprising one of the two outer layers of nonwoven material.

76. (New) The laminate of claim 75 wherein the nonwoven material is coform.

77. (New) The laminate of claim 76 wherein the tufted material is comprised primarily of meltblown polymer.

78. (New) The laminate of claim 77 wherein the meltblown polymer is a polyolefin selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polybutylene, copolymers,

and mixtures and blends thereof.

79. (New) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein the opposing tufts are in contact with each other, further wherein opposing valleys surrounding each tuft create a void volume therebetween.

80. (New) The nonwoven laminate of claim 50 wherein the opposing tufts are in contact with each other, further wherein opposing valleys surrounding each tuft create a void volume therebetween.

81. (New) The absorbent sheet of claim 54 wherein the opposing projections are in contact with each other, further wherein opposing valleys surrounding each projection create a void volume therebetween.

82. (New) The nonwoven laminate of claim 65 wherein opposing valleys surrounding each projection create a void volume therebetween.

83. (New) A nonwoven laminate comprising at least two tufted layers, each tufted layer having individual projections surrounded by valleys, wherein the individual projections and valleys of each layer are opposing projections and valleys, wherein the opposing valleys create a void volume therebetween.

84. (New) The laminate of claim 83 further comprising at least two outer layers of nonwoven material surrounding the at least two layers of tufted material.

85. (New) The laminate of claim 84 comprising two tufted layers.

86. (New) The laminate of claim 83 wherein the opposing projections are bondable to each other.

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Title: **INTERNAL-TUFTED LAMINATES**

87. (New) A nonwoven laminate comprising:
an internally tufted laminate having at least two layers of tufted material, each of the at least two layers having projections oriented inwardly, the projections surrounded by valleys and formed by being pulled through a porous forming surface.

88. (New) The laminate of claim 87 further comprising at least two outer layers of nonwoven material surrounding the at least two layers of tufted material.

89. (New) The laminate of claim 88 further comprising an added liquid to produce an absorbent sheet.

90. (New) The laminate of claim 87 wherein the porous forming surface is a wire.